IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing replaces all prior listings and versions of the claims. Any deletion of subject matter from the claims or any cancellation of claims is effected without prejudice.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing excessive IgE concentrations in the blood of a patient ~~suffering from a disease comprising admininstering a therapeutically~~ comprising administering an IgE lowering effective amount of an antibiotic ~~composition~~.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said patient is suffering from allergic asthma.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said antibiotic is a tetracycline.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 wherein said antibiotic is selected from the group consisting of tetracycline, rolitetracycline, oxytetracycline, chlorotetracycline, democlocycline, meclocycline, methacycline, doxycycline and ~~monocycline~~ minocycline and combination thereof.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein said antibiotic comprises tetracycline or minocycline.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein said antibiotic comprises a combination of tetracycline and minocycline.

7. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein said antibiotic comprises doxycycline.

8. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein said antibiotic comprises a combination of doxycycline and minocycline.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said ~~therapeutically~~ IgE lowering effective amount of antibiotic is administered orally.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 wherein said ~~therapeutically~~ IgE lowering effective amount of antibiotic is administered in an amount of about 1 to about 300 mg/day.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said ~~therapeutically~~ IgE lowering effective amount of antibiotic is administered parenterally.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein said ~~therapeutically~~ IgE lowering effective amount of antibiotic is administered in an amount of about 1 to about 300 mg/day.

13. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein said tetracycline is present in an amount between about 25 mg and about 100 mg.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said composition further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

15. (Original) A method of treating asthma in a patient comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of an antibiotic composition.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein said antibiotic is a tetracycline.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 wherein said antibiotic is selected from the group consisting of tetracycline, rolitetracycline, oxytetracycline, chlorotetracycline, democlocycline, meclocycline, methacycline, doxycycline and ~~monocycline~~ minocycline and combination thereof.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein said antibiotic comprises tetracycline or minocycline.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein said antibiotic comprises a combination of tetracycline and minocycline.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein said antibiotic comprises a combination of doxycycline and minocycline.

21. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein said therapeutically effective amount of antibiotic is administered orally.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein said therapeutically effective amount of antibiotic is administered in an amount of about 1 to about 300 mg/day.

23. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein said therapeutically effective amount of antibiotic is administered parenterally.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein said therapeutically effective amount of antibiotic is administered in an amount of about 1 to about 300 mg/day.

25. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein said tetracycline is present in an amount between about 25 mg and about 100 mg.

26. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein said composition further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

27. (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring the effectiveness of a drug in lowering the concentration of IgE in the plasma of a mammal suffering from a disease in which IgE is pathogenic, comprising:

a) making an initial determination of the concentration of IgE in the plasma at a first time in said mammal;

b) administering an effective amount of a drug which lowers IgE concentration in the plasma;

c) making a second determination of the concentration of IgE in the plasma at a time subsequent to the initial determination and after administration of same drug; and

d) comparing the values obtained from the first and second determination relative to a threshold level of IgE in the plasma wherein if the value of the second determination of the free IgE level is higher than or about the same as the first determination and above a threshold level, then the dosage amount of the drug is increased.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27 wherein said drug is a tetracycline.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28 wherein said tetracycline is minocycline or doxycycline or a combination thereof.

30. (New) A method of reducing the risk of a patient from suffering from a disease where excessive IgE is pathogenic comprising measuring the amount of a free IgE in the plasma and determining whether the concentration is greater than 100 Iu/ml and if so administering an effective amount of an antibiotic to reduce the amount of free IgE to less than 100 Iu/ml.